

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches to client's systems, comprising the steps of:
 - determining which of said software patches should be applied to said client's systems,
 - collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites,
 - interpreting which files will be affected by the installation of said software patches,
 - interpreting which directories will be affected by the installation of said software patches,
 - interpreting the operating system type, version and architecture said software patches apply to,
 - interpreting dependencies on other layered products,
 - determining which of vendor's upgrades and patches have been applied to client's systems,
 - determining which said software upgrades and patches should be or should have been applied to said clients systems,
 - collection of said patches and upgrades from said vendor's and downloading said patches and upgrades to client systems,

- interpreting the operating system type,
- interpreting the operating system version,
- interpreting the operating system architecture the patch applies to,
- determining how much memory is needed to install said patch and upgrades,
- interpreting how much memory and disk space is needed to install software upgrades and installing said software patches,
- determining how dependencies on other layered products affect the installation of said patches and upgrades,
- determining how dependencies on other patches, or software upgrades affect the installation of a patch,
- determining how dependencies on other software upgrades affect the installation of a patch,
- determining which files will be affected by the installation of a patch,
- determining which directories will be affected by the installation of a patch,
- backing-out said software patches that have been applied to said client's systems,
- checking the permissions and ownership of the files referenced in the patch and ensuring that the system software is authentic,

determining which software patches should be installed by determining the needed software patches and the not needed software patches,

- distributing said needed software patches to said client's systems, and
- installing said needed software patches.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)